

**NUTRIENT DATA LABORATORY (USDA/ARS)
Joanne Holden, MS, Research Leader, USDA/ARS/NDL, Riverdale, MD****ABSTRACT**

1) *USDA Nutrient Database for Standard Reference.* The USDA Nutrient Database for Standard Reference (SR), Release 11 will be available in August, 1996. The database will adopt a relational structure and will be released as ASCII delimited files. In addition to the ASCII delimited files, the CD-ROM release will add files in DBF and the IFDA Data Exchange format. 2) *Primary Data Set.* During 1995-1996 the Nutrient Data Laboratory (NDL) completed the 1995 Primary Data Set, a nutrient database for approximately 2,500 foods and 30 components, to be used with the USDA recipe file to create the USDA Survey Nutrient Database for the 1995 Continuing Survey of Food Intakes by Individuals. 3) *Child Nutrition Program.* The National Nutrient Database for Child Nutrition Programs (Release 2) was made available in Fall 1995 in collaboration with the Food Surveys Research Group, ARS and the USDA Food and Consumer Services. 4) *Databank Redesign.* During 1997, the Nutrient Data Laboratory will begin a major revision of the National Nutrient Databank System. 5) *NDL Home Page.* The NDL Home Page has moved to a USDA server at the National Agricultural Library. The bulletins and data have been rearranged so that they are linked together. More detailed information can be found in the Update Sheet included in the participant's conference materials.

**UPDATE OF THE TOTAL DIET STUDY
Jean A. T. Pennington, Ph.D., R.D., DNRC, NIDDK, NIH****ABSTRACT**

The Total Diet Study is conducted yearly by the Food and Drug Administration to monitor the safety and nutritional quality of the U.S. food supply. The current program (which was implemented in 1991 and is based on the 1987-88 USDA NFCS) includes the collection and analysis of 260 foods, four times per year and the estimation of daily intakes of contaminants and nutrients for 14 age-sex groups. The foods are collected from cities within four geographic areas of the U.S. and are analyzed for pesticide residues, industrial chemicals, radionuclides, toxic minerals, and nutrients (10 minerals and two vitamins). The mineral and vitamin data from 1991-95 are currently being evaluated and summarized. The 1982-91 data on the composition of 234 foods for 11 nutritional minerals (Na, K, P, Ca, Mg, Fe, Zn, Cu, Mn, Se, I) were published in the *Journal of Food Composition and Analysis* (8:91-217, 1995). Two papers on the daily intakes of these minerals for 8 age-sex group and the contributions of food groups to mineral intakes are in press in the *International Journal of Vitamin and Nutrition Research*. The food list of the Total Diet Study foods was revised based on information from the 1989-91 CSFII. This revised food list contains 305 foods. Preparation instructions were developed for these foods, and recipes were formulated for "homemade" products. The revised Total Diet Study will be implemented within the next year.

Paper C4-3

Food and Drug Administration-Labeling
Tom O'Brien, FDA Consumer Scientist

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION - LABELING
Tom O'Brien, FDA/CFSAN

ABSTRACT

This update will cover a number of issues. The FDA plans to publish a proposal to amend the serving size rule, referring to serving sizes as part of the nutrition label. The FDA is in the final stages of completing the 1995 Food Label and Package Survey (FLAPS). There are also plans to publish a final rule for voluntary labeling of raw fruits, vegetables, and fish. The Policy for Database Review for Voluntary and Mandatory Nutrition Labeling will be discussed and will describe the current manual detailing guidelines to follow, number of samples for analysis, data sources, analytical methodology, electronic submission of data, historical data, and database review process. More detailed information can be found in the Update Sheet included in the participant's conference materials.

Paper C4-4

Food Composition Laboratory (USDA/ARS)
Gary Beecher, Research Leader

FOOD COMPOSITION LABORATORY (USDA)
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ABSTRACT

The mission of the Food Composition Laboratory is to identify critical nutrient needs for U.S. Consumers. The laboratory takes a leadership role in the development, validation and communication of analytical technology for the measurement of important nutrients and other health-related components in foods. The research activities of the laboratory are an integral part of the National Nutrition Monitoring and Related Research program of the federal government. The analytical technology currently being developed by scientists and staff falls under one of the following broad areas: 1) analytical methods development, 2) improvement of data quality, and 3) reduction of analysis cost. Typical projects and examples of recent accomplishments will be discussed.

UPDATE ON INFOODS, WITH RELEVANCE TO NORTH AMERICA

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ABSTRACT

The International Network of Food Data Systems (INFOODS) was established to provide leadership for the development of international standards and guidelines for generating, compiling, and reporting food composition data. Since its creation in 1983, eight Regional Data Centres have been established, and three more are in early organisational stages. In this update, some of the recent and relevant Regional Data Centre activities will be reviewed, including the workshop for the creation of the first ASEANFOODS Food Composition Data Base and Tables, the LATINFOODS Meeting and Training Workshop, and the organisational meetings of MASIAFOODS, GULFOODS and SAARCFOODS. The progress on establishing the North American Regional Data Centre will be discussed. The summaries of the reports of two international committees – Data Quality, and Food Nomenclature and Terminology – will be presented.

REGIONAL DATA CENTER ACTIVITIES

FROM LATE 1995

The first organisational meeting of **MASIAFOODS**, for the countries of middle Asia, was held in Beijing from 12-14 October 1995, under the joint sponsorship of UNU and FAO. There were twenty four participants from China, Korea, Hong Kong, Taiwan and the sponsoring agencies. The purpose of the meeting was to organise the people and agencies involved in food composition activities in the countries of Middle Asia, and to formalise their participation in the INFOODS Network. The defined objectives were all achieved and activities have begun.

LATINFOODS conducted a three-week long Spanish-language workshop in Santiago in October 1995, attended by more than 30 people from 11 Latin American countries. The workshop was supported by mainly by FAO, but with UNU supporting the INFOODS coordinator conducting one week of classes. The content of the workshop included training in the areas of laboratory-based data generation, computer-based data compilation, and multimedia approaches to data dissemination, and is modelled on the 1994 workshop in Wageningen. Follow-up activities were planned, including the preparation of the LATINFOODS Food Composition Tables and data files.

The first meeting of **GULFOODS** was held on 21-23 November 1995, in United Arab Emirates, under the joint sponsorship of FAO and UNU. It was attended by 27 participants, speakers and observers, with six Gulf States represented. The purpose of the meeting was to assess the status of food composition data in the countries of the Arab Gulf, establish a basis for collaboration in food composition projects, and to develop a structure for the cooperation of countries of the region with the global UNU/FAO International Network of Food Data System (INFOODS). It was agreed that the meeting for **MEFOODS** (Middle Eastern countries aside from the Gulf States) would be held in late 1996 or early 1997.

The establishment of **CARICOMFOODS** has been agreed as of December 1995, and will operate from the Caribbean Food and Nutrition Institute (CFNI) in Kingston, Jamaica. INFOODS supplied computer hardware. This group will participate in the next NORAMFOODS meeting, scheduled for September 1996.

The workshop for the Creation of the first **ASEANFOODS** Food Composition Tables/Database was held in March 1996. This workshop was undertaken to create the first regional food composition table using INFOODS recommendations and intra-regional standardisation/harmonisation.. This workshop achieved its goal of developing the regional food composition database. This regional database will serve needs of ASEANFOODS member countries and others in the nearby regions where food composition data are lacking. It will also further strengthen the activities and collaboration among the ASEANFOODS member countries, between the regional network centre and INFOODS.

The first meeting of **SAARCFOODS**, for the countries of South Asia, will be held in August 1996 in Peshawar, Pakistan. Participant from Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan, and the Maldives will deliver presentations on the present state of food composition data generation, compilation and dissemination in their countries. Regional harmonisation issues will be identified, and working groups will be established to solve these problems. Issues of resource availability, equipment needs and training requirements will also be discussed, and proposals prepared to address these points.

NORAMFOODS -- INFOODS North American Regional Data Center

The North American regional network, **NORAMFOODS**, will hold their second meeting in Riverdale, Maryland, in September 1996. UNU will support the participation of members from Mexico and Jamaica and FAO will support a resource person from Rome. The organisational makeup will involve the countries of USA, Canada, and Mexico, with Caribbean participation.

The main purposes of the meeting are to formalized the tentative structure for the INFOODS North American regional data center proposed at the first meeting held in February 1995. The expectation is that NORAMFOODS would continue to be made up of representatives of Canada, Mexico, and the United States. In addition the Mexican National Food Composition Data Center (MEXFOODS) would coordinate a network for the Spanish and French speaking countries of the Caribbean to be known as MEXCARIBFOODS. The English speaking countries of the Caribbean will be covered by a regional data center in Jamaica to be known as CARICOMFOODS. Representatives of MEXCARIBFOODS and CARICOMFOODS will be represented at the meeting and will be invited to participate in future NORAMFOODS meetings.

In addition the expectation of the second meeting is to established working groups to deal with international and regional standardization and harmonisation issues including: recipe standardization; component tagname usage; food terminology and nomenclature; analytical methods and quality control; data quality identification; statistical issues; and collaboration on an industrial ingredients data base. MEXFOODS and NORAMFOODS are already using INFOODS tagnames which will facilitate data interchange within the INFOODS system.

Data quality committee meeting

A two-day international meeting on data quality took place under the auspices of INFOODS, at US Dept of Agriculture offices, in June 1995, and a follow-up meeting is scheduled to take place immediately after the FoodComp '96 course in Wageningen, The Netherlands. Participants were from the USA, Thailand, Chile, Zimbabwe and INFOODS. Some of the issues examined included the need for data quality indicators in a food composition data system; their applications in retrospective data evaluation, and production and evaluation of new data; their advantages/uses; the different

types of component values in a food composition data base to which they could be applied; the baseline data quality parameters for analytical data and derived data; and how data quality should be represented in a food composition data system. Work undertaken in 1996 included a survey in one country where data quality/source information is currently supplied to users, to determine how widely the information is used and how it is applied. This information will be used in formulation of guidelines for the international community.

Food nomenclature and terminology meeting

An IUNS/UNU/INFOODS working group convened to determine the tasks for an expert committee on food nomenclature and terminology. This one-day meeting was hosted by the US Dept of Agriculture at their offices in June 1995, with participants from the USA, Thailand, Chile, Zimbabwe and INFOODS. The first item addressed was the affirmation of the need to re-convene an international committee pertaining to food terminology, nomenclature, and descriptors. The tasks for this committee, as recommended by this working group, are as follows: review systems currently in use to determine the feasibility of linking them; determine if it is possible for a single food description language or a set of minimum criteria to be adopted among various countries; assume responsibility for the compilation of an electronic international food description dictionary/thesaurus/concordance, possibly including food images; describe and contrast the various systems for users, perhaps on the Internet, to see where the systems are complementary and where are they in conflict; and prepare an update, as a continuation of the development of the INFOODS system, previously published in the Journal of Food Composition and Analysis. The follow-up meeting is also scheduled to take place in Wageningen in late October 1996, and that committee will address the above-mentioned topics.

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